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**Department of Education Budget**  
**After School Program**  
**Appropriations Committee**  
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Senator Harp, Representative Walker and members of the Appropriations Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify this afternoon. My name is John Cattelan and I am here today on behalf of the Connecticut Alliance of YMCAs.

The Connecticut after school program provides high-quality programs outside school hours that offer students academic/educational enrichment and recreational activities in grades K-12 that are designed to reinforce and complement the regular academic program of participating students. Students are provided with assistance with their homework, remedial assistance and instruction addressing reading, math and science.

The program currently serves more than 5,000 students from grades K to 12 all across Connecticut and it is currently funded by the state at \$4.5 million a year.

Governor Malloy has proposed the elimination of this program. The elimination of this program would negatively impact the families of the 5,000 children who participate in this program and the staff who run these programs all across Connecticut.

In 2011, a report prepared for the Connecticut State Department of Education by the Center for Applied Research in Human Development at the University of Connecticut concluded the After School Program was delivering opportunities for academic enrichment that complement students' school day learning.

The study evaluated three indicators to assess the potential impact of the After School Program. Those three indicators were academic achievement, school day attendance and in-school behavior. Students with multi-year involvement in a state-funded After School Program performed better than the general group of participants and also better than the population in the comparison districts.

The Connecticut Alliance of YMCAs opposes the elimination of this program and believes that a program with such proven success should be continued.

Thank you.